

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

EB-11 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /060 W
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R 282206Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
SECSTATE WASHDC 1832
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AS (HALTON, CHARLES C.)

SUBJECT: CANADIAN NAMED TO HEAD NEW DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
IN AUSTRALIA

REF: MELBOURNE 990

1. HALTON WAS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY'S
PREVIOUS TCO. LATTER INDICATED TO HIS SUCCESSOR THAT
HALTON WAS FULLY ON TOP OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL
MODES AND HAD A HIGH BATTING AVERAGE IN SECURING THE
ADOPTION OF HIS VIEWS AS GOC POLICY IN THOSE AREAS
HE CONCERNED HIMSELF WITH. PRESENT TCO HAS ONLY MET
HALTON ON ONE BRIEF OCCASION AND HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED
HIS OWN APPRAISAL. MEMBER OF HALTON'S STAFF, HOWEVER,
HAS DESCRIBED HIM AS A STIMULATING PERSON TO WORK WITH
AND POSSESSING A RELAXED INFORMAL STYLE.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE CAME TO CANADA ABOUT FOUR YEARS
AGO TO HEAD THE THEN NEWLY CREATED TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (LONG RANGE THINK-TANK) AT MONTREAL AND MOVED TO
MOT HEADQUARTERS FROM THERE. THE STORY IS TOLD THAT
WHILE IN ENGLAND HE READ THE TEXT OF THE 1967 CANADIAN
TRANSPORT ACT (CREATING THE MINISTRY AND ESTABLISHING
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THE CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION, OMNIMODAL REGULATORY

BODY). HALTON EXCLAIMED THAT THIS WAS THE MOST PERFECT
PIECE OF TRANSPORT LEGISLATION EVER ENACTED ANYWHERE
AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO ADMINISTER IT. HIS MONTREAL
APPOINTMENT PRESUMABLY CAME SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

3. AN AUSTRALIAN HICOM OFFICER TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE
THAT MOT OFFICIALS (INCLUDING DEPUTY MINISTER STONER)
ARE HIGHLY IRRITATED THAT HALTON HAS BEEN LURED AWAY
FROM MOT. HALTON WAS BEING GROOMED FOR BIGGER THINGS
THERE, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE MADE THEIR DISPLEASURE
CLEAR TO THE AUSTRALIANS.

4. HALTON IS WELL KNOWN TO VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND EMBASSY SUGGESTS
THAT DEPARTMENT SOLICIT THEIR IMPRESSIONS AND
APPRAISALS OF HIM.
SCHMIDT

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30 JUN 2005

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